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County Board Okays N.C. 212 Improvement

By NICHOLAS HANCOCK

Residents of the White Rock and Shelton Laurel sections of Madison County benefited from a road hearing held the last week in September between the county commissioners and the state Department of Transportation, in which the commissioners and DOT recommended that \$100,000 be spent this year on improving the five-mile, unpaved stretch of N.C. 212 leading into Tennessee.

The announcement came at the Oct. 2 commissioners meeting when commissioners chairman James Ledford told the audience the state has allocated \$497,426 to be spent on some 306 miles of secondary roads in the county this year.

The commissioners approved the recommended road work schedule, and said they hoped to spend another \$100,000 over the next three years on N.C. 212.

The commissioners came under fire from a dozen or so residents of the Shelton Laurel community at their June 5 meeting when spokesmen for the group said they have waited for years to get something done about the road. At the time, Gladson Cutshall told the commissioners it would take gravel "three feet deep to cover up the rocks in that road." The residents said people living in the Shelton Laurel section felt they "weren't even getting the crumbs

from the state and county taxes" they paid.

The commissioners were able to make recommendations about N.C. 212 only after the road's designation was changed from a primary road to a secondary road.

N.C. 212 connects Highways U.S. 25-70 and N.C. 206 with U.S. 23 north of Flag Pond, Tenn. leading into Erwin, Tenn. Approximately five miles of the road is unpaved beginning just inside the N.C. state line.

Other approved road work allocations announced were Anderson Branch Rd. (S.R. 1155) \$50,000; Sandy Mush Bridge on S.R. 1107, \$80,000; Bear Creek Rd. (S.R. 1114), \$100,000; S.R. 1332, \$82,426; Meadow Fork Rd. (S.R. 1175), \$30,000; Baker Road, \$40,000; and S.R. 1124, \$15,000.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved and signed contracts to continue the Orientation and Motivation and Youth Work Experience programs in the county's Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA) Program. The county will receive \$72,331 through Sept. 30, 1982 to operate both programs, and \$13,193 for administration of the programs.

Acting CETA Director Darlene Cody told the board there were 34 in-school job slots and four drop-out job slots

available in the YWE program. After a 45-minute executive session, the commissioners approved the names of students to fill those slots.

- Approved the hiring of Mr. Jerry Plemmons as director of the Madison County Senior Citizen Center. Plemmons was hired on the recommendation of the chairman of the Personnel Committee of the Council on Aging, Mrs. Lucille Burnette.

- Approved the recommendation of Chairman Ledford to raise the salary of Luanne Roberts, director of Community Coordinated Child Care.

- Took no action on a request from Russell Blevins, District Soil Conservationist, to provide CETA funds to employ a secretary for the Soil Conservation Service office. Blevins made the request saying that the county had, in the past, provided a secretary through CETA for 30 hours of work per week. According to Blevins, the local SCS office receives some \$55,000 per year in federal money for operations.

- Took no action on a request from harpsichord maker Richard Kingston to enter a five-year lease of the county-owned Sprinkle-Shelton Building on Main Street in Marshall. However, the commissioners instructed county attorney Larry Leake to prepare a lease agreement to be presented to Kingston for his inspection and approval before any action would be taken.



THE BAILEY MOUNTAIN RUN was won by Edward Fore, 20, of Arden, seen third from left in the photo above. Fore completed the 6.2-mile course in a record 33 minutes 3 seconds. Some 50 runners turned out to brave a steady mist that blanketed the mountains both for the one-mile Fun Run and the longer

run on Oct. 10 in Mars Hill. The one-mile run was won by Dean Misner, a freshman at Mars Hill College, in the time of 5:21. The annual event was sponsored by the Mars Hill Lions Club, which will use all proceeds to help the handicapped.

Student Council Attends Workshop

Thirteen members of the Madison High Student Council went to the Division III Student Body Council Workshop held at Enka High School on Oct. 2.

The workshop consisted of three discussion groups, lunch and songfest, and an overall fellowship among the students. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss with other schools how their Student Council operated and to exchange ideas to make this year's student council successful.

The council was designed to provide representation for students and to maintain an effective student-administration relationship. The council has numerous goals and projects that are being worked on to make this school year a very commendable one. We, the Student Council, would like to ask for your support throughout this year's activities.

Members making the trip to Enka were Stuart Jolley, Bobby Ingle, Cynthia Payne, Theresa Norris, Mark Plemmons, Robin Hough, Kim Boles, Russell Lambert, Pam Fish, Kim Taylor, Norman Grose, Steve Birch, and Lynn Mace. The students were accompanied by sponsors Norris Gentry and Francis Ramsey.



MADISON HIGH SCHOOL'S Student Council: (l-r) First row — Robin Hough, Sandra Griffen, Kim Taylor, Lynn Mace, Teresa Norris, Pam Fish. Second row — Russell Lambert, Stuart Jolley, Debbie Spears, Bobby Ingle, Cynthia Payne, Mark Plemmons, Norman Grose, Kim Boles and Steve Birch. (Photo by Denise Griffin)

Ramsey Receives Apology

RALEIGH (AP) — Rep. Patricia Hunt, D-Orange, took the floor of the state House last Thursday to apologize for a published story in which she criticized House Speaker Lister Ramsey as "not a very competent person."

The story, in Thursday's editions of the Winston-Salem Journal, also quoted Mrs. Hunt as saying that the House was run by a clique of Ramsey cronies, and that she would resign her seat to accept an appointment as district court judge from Gov. Jim Hunt.

"I apologize to you for any embarrassment, any inconvenience for even taking up your time on the floor of this House," she said. "But I felt I had to say that I am very sorry for anything that might have been written in the paper."

"I do not feel that you are incompetent. I do not believe you are incompetent. I did not say that," she said.

In the emotion-filled speech to her House colleagues, Mrs. Hunt said she recognized her political philosophy was more liberal than most of the other House members. But she said she had made many friends among her colleagues and hoped they would remain friends.

In the Journal story, Mrs. Hunt, a Chapel Hill lawyer in her fifth term in the House, said one reason she was

resigning her seat was because of Ramsey.

"My own view is that he's not a very competent person," she said. "He's just been around a long time, and he's learned all the rules."

"Now you take (Lt. Gov.) Jimmy Green. He's a smart person — he just hasn't learned the rules," she was quoted as saying.

Mrs. Hunt told the Journal she expected to be appointed by Hunt to fill one of several newly created district court judgeships.

In the Journal story, Mrs. Hunt complained that Ramsey

had appointed his own cronies to influential committee chairmanships. Mrs. Hunt, a judiciary committee chairman under the previous House speaker, Carl Stewart, complained of her committee assignments under Ramsey.

Ramsey, asked about Mrs. Hunt's original comments, said, "That's okay if she wants to think that. She's a capable person, but I didn't appoint her because she didn't support me for speaker. That's the name of the game — you appoint the people who helped you become speaker, taking into account seniority

and geography." In her floor speech, Mrs. Hunt said that Ramsey had provided "extraordinary" help on women's issues and had appointed women to committee chairmanships.

Joe Goodman, managing editor of the Winston-Salem Journal, said Thursday that the newspaper stands by its story.

"Our reporter was talking to a politician about politics. We took notes in good faith, we wrote a story in good faith and we published it in good faith," he said.

Five Local Residents Receive Appointments To Efficiency Council

Governor Jim Hunt has appointed five Madison County residents to the county's Transportation Efficiency Council.

The governor's appointees to the Madison County council are Virginia Anderson of Hot Springs, Robert L. Edwards of Mars Hill, R.Z. (Bobby) Ponder of Hot Springs, Roger Haynie of Marshall, and Willie Rice of Rt. 6, Marshall. Members will serve terms of two years.

Hunt established the councils in all 100 counties by executive order this spring to help insure wise and efficient use of the additional highway dollars provided by legislative

approval of his "Good Roads" program.

"These councils will advise me and the State Board of Transportation on how we can improve efficiency and productivity in our Department of Transportation," Hunt said. "This will give local people the chance to examine and review the work of the Department of Transportation on the roads where they live."

Local residents will be able to go to their county's Efficiency Council when they have complaints about a maintenance crew wasting time, or not doing a thorough job, or whatever it may be," Hunt said.

The council will work closely with the State Board of Transportation. Zeno Ponder, local member of the state board, is chairman of the county council.

Members of the General Assembly serve as ex-officio members of the councils in their districts. Serving on the Madison council are Representative Ernest Messer (D-Haywood), Rep. Lister Ramsey (D-Madison), Senator James McClure Clarke (D-Buncombe) and Senator Robert Swain (D-Buncombe).

The council will work with DOT division and district engineers.

Marshall Gets Street Funds

The Town of Marshall received a state grant of \$24,974 last week which will pay for one-fourth of the expenses incurred in installing a new water line along Roberts Hill Road.

The grant was made under the provisions of the N.C. Clean Water Bond Act which allows grants of up to 25 percent of the total project cost for approved water supply system projects.

According to Eloise Riddle, town clerk, the town now has enough funds to pay for approximately half the project, and Revenue Sharing monies have been committed for the next two years to finish the project.

Nearly \$2.3 million in such state grants were made last week, according to the N.C. Department of Natural Resources in Raleigh.

primary ratings and the total amount of funds available quarterly. To date, state grants of approximately \$28 million have been awarded to water projects with total costs exceeding \$700 million.

Less than one year ago voters in the program, DNR said. The next announcement of grant awards will be made in early January.

The People Ask

The People Ask is a weekly feature of The News Record. The public may submit questions on any local subject by calling 649-2741 or by mailing them to The People Ask, The News Record, P.O. Box 388, Marshall, N.C. 28753.

QUESTION: Why does Madison High School charge a \$5 fee for student lockers?

ANSWER: The \$5 fee is not merely a rental fee; the money actually pays for the lockers, according to Principal David Wyatt. He said the lockers were purchased in the fall of 1978 for \$15,788 after the school building was built, and after asking the student body if they wanted lockers installed. The 510 lockers cost \$56 for each upper and lower set of two, and were purchased on an installment plan at about 9 percent interest bringing the total cost to \$15,788.

Wyatt said it would take a total of seven years to pay for the lockers. That means the lockers debt should be paid off in about four more years. He said students were initially charged \$5 for the lockers, but the fee had been raised. He added that students are allowed to share lockers (two students per locker) and pay \$4 each for the school year. He said the school doesn't get 100 percent rental of the lockers every year.

Fall Visitation Planned

Mars Hill College will hold Fall Visitation, a program designed to give prospective students and their parents an opportunity to become better acquainted with the college and its programs, on Saturday, Oct. 24. Reservations are required and the deadline is Friday, Oct. 16.

The college's Office of Admissions and Enrichment has planned a full day of activities for the visitors with registration beginning at 10 a.m. in the lobby of Blackwell Hall. The college's Stage Band, a jazz and pop oriented band, will perform during the registration period as well as the Bailey Mountain Choppers, the college's award-winning traditional mountain dance team.

College tours will be held by currently enrolled students

who have been trained as tour guides. An informal introduction to campus life will be held in Belk Auditorium beginning at 11:15 a.m. Dr. Richard Hoffman, academic vice-president, Dr. Michael O'Brien, dean of student development, and Dr. Robert Melvin, professor of religion will be the speakers. Ample time for questions and answers will be provided.

A buffet luncheon will be served in the Wren College Union snack bar for the students and their parents. The prospective students will be guests of the college at this luncheon, but parents and other guests will need to purchase tickets for \$2.50 each.

Following lunch, academic departments will be featured in a faculty fair. The chairmen

of the departments and directors of special programs will be present to talk with the students in areas of their special interest. The afternoon will also feature special displays and demonstrations in some academic departments and additional campus tours will be conducted.

Dennis Hill, associate dean for admissions and enrichment, notes that the college will provide sleeping bag space for students who wish to come to the college on Friday. Reservations will be required for the sleeping bag space and for lunch on Saturday. The reservation deadline is Friday, Oct. 16 and interested persons should write Admissions Office, Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, NC 28754 or call 764-689-1281.